

REMARKS

We acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 26, 27, and 53 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 25-54 are presently pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected Claims 25, 38, 49, 52, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Alfano et al. (U.S. 5,150,248). We note, however, that contrary to what the Examiner appears to believe Alfano does not teach or suggest "a beam conditioner which during operation introduces a sequence of different shifts in a selected parameter of each of the first and second beams, said selected parameter selected from a group consisting of phase and frequency," as recited in claim 25.

The Examiner directs our attention to passages of Alfano which supposedly teach this feature, namely, col. 3, lines 21-58. But a review of those passages indicates that Alfano's circuit modulates "time duration and amplitude (i.e. the temporal properties)" of one of its two sets of beams. There is no indication in those passages, or anywhere else in the Alfano patent for that matter, of introducing a sequence of different shifts in either phase or frequency of the beams of Alfano's two sets of beams.

Claim 38, which is a method claim, includes a limitation that is similar to the one discussed above in connection with claim 25. More specifically, it recites "introducing a sequence of different shifts in a selected parameter of each of the first and second beams, said selected parameter selected from a group consisting of phase and frequency." As we discussed above, Alfonso does not teach or suggest this feature.

For the reasons stated above, we believe that the claims are allowable and therefore ask the Examiner to allow them to issue.

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Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric L. Prahl", written over a horizontal line.

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